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From: Kelly Hayes <khayes@milum.com> on 04/09/99 07:10 PM GMT

To: President@gateway

cc:

Subject: Request for Legislation to Label Genetically Engi=

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[Connection Information]

CLIENT: 216.171.56.67 [216.171.56.67]
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[Sender Information]

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[Message Information]

PURPOSE: No Answer
TOPIC: Agriculture
AFFILIATION: Private Citizen
SUBJECT: Request for Legislation to Label Genetically
Engi=
neered Foods

[Message]

Dear President Clinton,

I am very concerned that I am eating genetically engineered=20
foods without being told that fact. I am writing you this=20
letter to insist that legislation be passed into law that will=20
require genetically engineered foods to be labeled as such,=20
regardless of whether the food is in its whole form or as an=20
ingredient in processed foods.=20

Genetically engineered crops are not the same as those=20
produced by typical hybridization. The Food & Drug=20
Administration (FDA), the United States Department of=20
Agriculture (USDA), and the Environmental Protection Agency=20
(EPA) are being negligent in protecting the rights of the=20

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American public in regards to genetically engineered foods. I am asking you to act legislatively to stop these agency neglect of public interest.

The FDA is allowing genetically engineered foods to come to market unlabeled although public opinion polls show a majority of Americans want them labeled. (81% in a January 11, 1999 Time magazine poll.) Last year the USDA even proposed to include genetically engineered foods in the definition of organic! The EPA is allowing the Bt bacteria (a valuable tool for organic agriculture) to be genetically engineered into the structure of plants. This could seriously undermine organic agriculture and cause significant human health and environmental problems.

Varieties of potatoes and corn are currently being sold that have been genetically engineered to contain the Bt toxin (Bacillus thuringiensis). The Bt toxin stays in the cell structure of the plants and is deadly enough to kill insects. We are being told these foods are safe for human consumption, but we have heard that before about DDT, EDB, and many other pesticides later shown to be cancer causing. I do not want to eat genetically engineered foods that contain the Bt toxin. Nor do I want to eat "Roundup Ready" soybeans or tomatoes that contain the gene from a fish! But without labeling I cannot avoid it. So I am asking you to pass legislation to label all genetically engineered foods.

Similar labeling legislation has already been passed in Europe and Australia.

Please respond back to me and let me know if you intend to work to pass this legislation.

Sincerely,